

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application. The present amendments are merely of form, and are made to bring the present claims into accordance with United States practice.

The Office Action states that the present application contains claims directed to the patentably distinct species as shown in Figs. 1-2 (Group I), Figs. 3-6 (Group II), and Fig. 7 (Group III). The Office Action further requires Applicant to elect one of these species to be examined, and to identify the claims that encompass the elected species.

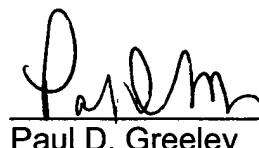
Applicant elects, with traverse, Group I, the species of Figs. 1-2. All of the pending claims, namely 1-26, encompass this species. Applicant does not traverse the election with respect to Group III, but does traverse with respect to Groups I and II.

What the Office Action has stated are different species in Groups I and II are merely different views of the same embodiment of the bicycle bar grip of the present claims. As stated in the text of the specification that accompanies Figs. 1-6, the grip (comprising, *inter alia*, sleeve 10 and grip element 16) shown in Figs. 3-6 is identical to that of Figs. 1-2, with the difference being that the former is shown without the clamping means 20 or handle bar 12. Thus, there is no burden to search both alleged species. Since the grip shown in Group I includes all of the features shown in Group II, a search for the grip of Group I, with the clamping means 20, would necessarily include a search of the grip of Group II, shown without the clamping means 20. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the requested species election is improper with respect to Groups I and II, and requests that it be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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